

I support media diversity

Mr. Powell,

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

I think that the goal of promoting competition, diversity and local content in the media market of US towns and cities will be better served if the FCC retain all of the current media ownership rules now in the books.

I believe that the public interest will be better served by not encouraging the expansion of the market power now wielded by conglomerates such as Newscorp in the broadcast industry.

I think that changing the current rules to allow ownership of both print and television media in the same city or town by one company will only further encourage the ownership (and therefore materially control the content and flow of information) by a few conglomerates and make it almost impossible for new and smaller entities to get into and stay in the business of broadcasting that could potentially offer a different perspective from those offered by the few conglomerates.

While I like to think that most of the people running the big media conglomerates are decent people, the highly destructive deeds of some of the people at Enron is instructive: in the pursuit of profit - even unearned ones - could lead the decent people of a big media conglomerate to forget their ethics and knowingly (but unconscionably) manipulate the content and flow of the news to serve their questionable interests.

I agree with the Media Diversity Campaign group that: ' the FCC hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions.... it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.'

I am not a Republican but I count myself as an admirer of your father, Colin Powell. He is, I think, a symbol of how a responsible, fair-minded government official should be. I am betting that you are, too.

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>Thank you,

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